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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /083 W
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FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0987
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 22

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: COE, EEC, PFOR, FR, XG.
SUBJECT: GISCARD D'ESTAING INAUGURATES COUNCIL OF EUROPE BUILDING
IN STRASBOURG
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NEW PALAIS DE L'EUROPE IN STRASBOURG WAS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED BY FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D ESTAING. WHILE PRAISING WORK OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE, GISCARD S SPEECH WAS ESSENTIALLY A SOBER, ELOQUENT CALL FOR MORE RAPID UNION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

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GISCARD BEGAN BY RESTATING FRENCH PRIDE IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE BUILDING WHICH HOUSES THE OLDEST OF EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS, THE ONE WHICH "FIRST BEGAN TO GIVE SHAPE AND LIFE" TO THE DREAM OF EUROPEAN UNION.

CHARACTERIZING THE COUNCIL AS THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MOST CONCERNED WITH MAN, HIS RIGHTS, LIVING CONDITIONS AND DAILY WORRIES, AND RECALLING ITS MODEST AND QUIET WORK IN PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS AND ENCOURAGING DEMOCRACY, GISCARD REASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT ITS WORK WOULD NEVER BECOME UNNECESSARY. EVEN THOUGH A PART OF EUROPE IS ENGAGED IN UNITING THE NATIONS IT EMBRACES, THE UNION OF EUROPE WILL ALWAYS DISCUSS THINGS WITH ALL OF EUROPE.

RECALLING THAT THE NEW BUILDING WILL HOUSE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - BUT MAKING NO SPECIFIC DEMAND THAT ITS SEAT BE LOCATED IN STRASBOURG - GISCARD STATED THAT IN LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, ONE COULD SEE THAT DESPITE TEMPORARY SET BACKS PROGRESS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNION HAD NEVER CEASED, AND IN A SHARP JAB AT THE CRITICS OF EUROPEAN UNION HE SAID NONE OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH MAKE UP COMMUNITY HAS THE FEELING OF HAVING "LOST ITS IDENTITY OR GIVEN UP ITS SOVEREIGNTY". EUROPE NOW NEEDS, HE SAID TO HAVE INSTITUTIONS SUITED TO ITS NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, WHICH COMPRISES ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AND FURTHER STEPS TOWARD CONFEDERATION. THIS MEANS THE SETTING UP OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHICH IS THE SUMMIT OF THE EDIFICE AND THE BODY WHICH PROVIDES COORDINATION AND IMPETUS. THIS ALSO MEANS ELECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, SO THAT MEMBERS CAN PERFORMS THEIR SPECIFIC TASKS AND VOTERS CAN BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO EXPRESS
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THEIR INTEREST IN EUROPEAN PROBLEMS BY CHOOSING THEIR REPRESENTATIVES DIRECTLY.

ONCE THESE INSTITUTIONS CREATED THEY MUST BE USED TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVES WHICH IN GISCARD S VIEW ARE TO PRESERVE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE COMMUNITY, REJECTING PROTECTIONIST MEASURES, AND REESTABLISHING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, TO ADOPT COMMON POLICIES IN A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC FIELDS ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF EUROPE SUCH AS ENERGY, FISHERIES, TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, AND HARMONIZATION OF THE VAT, TO GIVE THE MAIN EFFORT TO THE COMPLETING OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, WHICH IS A WAY STATION ON THE ROAD TO CONFEDERATION.

FINALLY, GISCARD CALLED FOR A UNITED EUROPE, WHICH TODAY HAS RECOVERED FROM ITS PAST ILLS TO ASSUME ITS PROPER PLACE IN THE WORLD, TO CREATE A MODEL SOCIETY WHOSE ENERGIES AND FACILITIES WILL INCREASINGLY BE PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF ITS CITIZENS, WHERE EUROPE WILL NOT BE OUTDISTANCED IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS, AND WHERE ITS VOICE WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY

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IMPORTANT IN THE COUNCILS OF THE WORLD.ROMINE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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